

Celebration of Ministries - May 11, 2025

Friday Nite Out is starting up for the season!

Please come to "Friday Night Out" at the Padgets' on May 16 at 6:00. If you are able, bring your place setting and a dish to share. The address is 7020 Guinevere. If you have any questions, contact the church office or call April & Barry at 406-531-9602.



If you would like to volunteer to have it at your home, contact Genevieve Padget Slote at: g_padget@yahoo.com

Sunday School Needs Your Help!

Sunday School needs Teachers and Assistant Teachers. We are short 2 Teachers and 1 Assistant.

Lesson plans provided and ready to teach. As one of our Teachers says, "I feel guilty because all I really need to do is look over the lesson and be there on Sunday to teach it." Our Assistant Teacher supports the Teacher by helping students. 2 adults are needed in the Sunday School room because we are a "Safe Gatherings" church. All of our adults who work with children will need to complete Safe Gatherings training.



When fully staffed, our Teachers and Assistant Teachers work once a month. Please consider helping out in Sunday School.

If you're interested, contact Cindy Ekstrand at 775-560-3381 or call the church office at 406-549-6118. Thank You!

The Green Team invites you to join us Sunday, May 18, after church for a potluck based on sustainable eating and gardening. Green Team is bringing the meatless main dishes. Anyone that wishes to, is asked to bring salads or dessert. Please join us for a short video, great conversation, and of course, some really great food!



UWF is planning a bake sale on Thursday, May 15.

Become a Scripture Reader

We are looking for Scripture Readers for worship services in the months of May and June. Please sign up in the Main Street Entrance room for the date that works best for you. Enter the date you'd like to read and the scripture will be sent to your email. No email? There's also a printed copy.



New to FUMC? In May you can:

Bring treats for Fellowship Hour!

Please call the office at 406-549-6118 or put in small kitchen freezer!

Help make POV sandwiches on Saturdays.

Contact: Lorraine Carlson at:

madamecarlson@gmail.com to get on the schedule!



Family Promise is having a fundraiser so we can continue to provide all the services we have been providing. As we all know, everything is more expensive these days so whatever you are able to give will be appreciated. All donations no matter the amount are welcome and will be put to good use. You can write a check to Missoula Interfaith Collaborative and send it to Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, 2205 34th St., Missoula, MT 59801. Please make sure to put **Family Promise** in the memo line so your donation goes to Family Promise. Please help if you are able.

Below is an update on Family Promise as well as a look at what additional services are being planned.

Family Promise: Transforming the lives of families experiencing homelessness because every child deserves a home.

Family Promise of Missoula is a network of 30 congregations and organizations as well as a Network of people who practice hospitality and work together to provide shelter, meals and support to Missoula families who are houseless to help them rebuild their lives. In May 2021, Family Promise joined the YWCA in opening and operating the Family Housing Center. With the help of Family Promise's strong volunteer network and collaboration with the YWCA, we are a strong support for families experiencing homelessness in Missoula.



Family Promise provides a dinner meal for families Monday through Friday. In 2024, we served 10,400 meals! The main dish is prepared by the Missoula Senior Center and Family Promise volunteers provide salad, fruit and desserts to complement the meal. Funds from this campaign will go toward covering the cost of dinner to feed families and other expenses to run Family Promise.

In collaboration with the Housing Advocate Network, we also provide prevention services. Last year we were able to provide support to 24 families to keep them in their housing, with only one family going into shelter at the Family Housing Center. In 2025, we are excited to begin a Stabilization program to serve families once they are housed to promote housing stability and self-sufficiency. Families will work alongside a coach and a "Just Neighbors" team for up to a year to gain skills to remain in housing and become connected with a community of belonging.

MISSING IN ACTION

Please help me find the manger that was used in the Christmas Play last year. I have attached a picture. After the play, many people put the props and costumes away. I just have not figured out where away is for the MANGER. If you know where the MANGER is, please let Cindy Ekstrand, Pastor John or the office know. You could also come to church and find the MANGER and put it in the office for Cindy or Pastor John to find. Thank you so much for helping us find the MANGER.

Cindy Ekstrand. SS Director.



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Common Good Missoula: May 29th Assembly

In the March City-Wide Listening Session, we heard compelling stories of the local impact of executive orders on individuals and families in our community – stories of economic as well as personal security being directly affected. The critical next step for the 22 member and partner organizations of Common Good Missoula (CGM) – including our church – is to discern specific areas of action we can effectively take together.

That is why it is so important for as many of us as possible to gather with representatives of the other 21 organizations at the CGM Delegates Assembly on Thursday, May 29th.

The Assembly will be held right here in our church on that date from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. (Come early if you would like to purchase a meal from a food truck.) At the Assembly, to sharpen our awareness of what is at stake, we will hear stories from people who are being impacted. We will then discern one or two areas of focus and be called on to commit to moving those actions forward through Action Research Teams. Wouldn't it be great if 23 or more of us turned out for this like we did three years ago for the CGM Founding?

So, save that May 29th evening time and plan to attend. **Questions:** joeloos7245@gmail.com.



Common Good Missoula: Thank you & Save the Date

Thank you to those of you who attended the Common Good Missoula City-Wide Listening session a month ago.

16 of us from First UMC turned out!

So what's happening in response to all those stories shared and concerns raised. A team has been going back over the notes taken and identifying common concerns. While that has been happening, some of those who attended are now going through the *Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization* training series, some have been through *Leadership Training*, and the CGM Strategy Team has set a date for the next big step in the organizing cycle.

Delegates Assembly the evening of May 29th.

Purpose: Collaborating on one or two major areas of focus and action to engage in over the coming year. So, save that May 29th date and plan to attend.

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative; Creating Community Together

Are you passionate about helping our church work with other Missoula faith communities on urgent local needs? First UMC needs folks who will step up to represent us on Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC) Action teams addressing two or three priority goals in this newly chaotic world:

- Support for folks who are unhoused or struggling to stay housed.
- Assisting legal refugees who are now stranded in our community.
- Finding ways to take Climate Action together.

Contact Joe Loos (joeloos7245@gmail.com) if one of these is your passion -- Leadership Teams are forming and will meet May 27 for lunch.

Prayer List for May 11, 2025



- ◆ Courage, comfort, and peace for David H. and his wife Tish as he transitions back home on hospice care.
- ◆ A return to mental health for Paul M, who had been attending our services.
- ◆ A good and fulfilling job for Bernie and Linda's grandson who just graduated with a PhD in biomedical engineering.
- ◆ Joy that Nancy H is recovered and back with us, and that all her innards are functioning properly.
- ◆ Thanks and gratitude from Nancy H for all the cards and calls while she was convalescing.
- ◆ Peace, strength, and a good outcome for Denalie's friend who will be having a lung biopsy.
- ◆ That Megan's prematurely born niece Lilly will soon be able to sleep through the night without any breathing pauses, so she can go home with her parents.
- ◆ That Megan will have success with her new injector for her Crone's treatment.
- ◆ Prayers for comfort and strength for Pastor John's brother in law, Rob P, who's mother Heidi, passed away suddenly, and prayers of peace and comfort for her family.



Lord in your Mercy...Hear our Prayers...

Please send your prayer requests in! E-mail Kathie Snodgrass at kathiewearsgreen@yahoo.com with your prayer requests. You can also email or call the office at 549-6118.